

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 175174  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/NE: JPSHUMATE

APPROVED BY EUR:RD VINE

EUR/NE- REWOODS

S/S-O: SGOLDMSITH

-----089234 270214Z /73

O 270111Z JUL 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 175174

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS

SUBJECT: US MACHINE GUNS FOR UK ARMY USE IN NORTHERN  
IRELAND

REF: USDAO, 011830 JUL 77, LONDON

AT REQUEST DEPT OFF, BRITISH EMBASSY HEAD OF CHANCERY  
MARK RUSSELL MET TO DISCUSS THE APPLICATION FOR EXPORT OF  
16 INGRAM SUBMACHINE GUNS TO MEET "BRITISH ARMY OPERATION-  
AL REQUIREMENTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND." DEPT OFF EXPLAINED  
THAT IN DESCRIBING USG NON-INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND  
TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC, WE OFTEN DENY AL-  
LEGATIONS THAT THE US IS SELLING "WAR MATERIAL" TO THE  
BRITISH FOR USE IN NORTHERN IRELAND. IN CONSIDERING THE  
REQUEST FOR M-1 RIFLES FOR THE RUC EARLIER THIS YEAR, AN  
IMPORTANT ASPECT IN OUR FAVORABLE DECISION WAS THE FACT  
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THE M-1 WAS TO REPLACE STERLING SUBMACHINE GUNS AND WOULD  
PROVIDE GREATER SAFETY AND A REDUCTION IN FIRE POWER. THE  
DELICATE NATURE OF OUR PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM ON NORTH-  
ERN IRELAND WAS WELL KNOWN TO THE BRITISH, PARTICULARLY  
AT THIS TIME WHILE WE ARE ENGAGED IN DEALING WITH THE  
NORTHERN IRELAND INITIATIVE OF SPEAKER O'NEILL, SENATORS  
KENNEDY AND MOYNIHAN AND GOVERNOR CAREY. IN VIEW OF THESE

FACTORS, DEPT OFF SAID IT WAS OUR SUGGESTION THAT THE

APPLICATION BE WITHDRAWN.

RUSSELL SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF THE APPLICATION,  
THAT HE WOULD VERIFY ITS HAVING COME THROUGH THE EMBASSY,  
AND THAT HE WOULD PASS OUR DEMARCHE TO LONDON. VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MACHINE GUNS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 27-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE175174  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JPSHUMATE  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**SAS ID:** 1733008  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** US MACHINE GUNS FOR UK ARMY USE IN NORTHERN IRELAND  
**TAGS:** MASS, US, EI  
**To:** LONDON  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009